Development of playgrounds and Stadia

444. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the amount of Rs. 1.50 lakh for the development of playgrounds and purchase of sports items;

(b) whether the scheme of development of stadia is in force; and

(c) if not, why has it been discontinued and since when?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Refurbishing the image of CCBI

445. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drastic changes are needed to refurbish the image of Cricket Control Board of India in view of the dismal performance of the Indian cricket team in the last one day matches held in Australia; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) The promotion of the game of cricket in the country is the responsibility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) which is an autonomous organization. There are, at present no statutory rules to regulate the functioning of BCCI and other National Sports Federations. However, Government of India is in the process of formulating a new Sports Policy, under which the issue of appropriate functioning of Sports Federations and allied institutions is also proposed to be addressed.

Steps to improve sports in the country

446. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to improve sports in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by SAI in this regard;

(c) whether Government have announced any new scheme for the sports persons in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The national teams for different disciplines are being trained by Sports Authority of India on behalf of Government in coordination with the concerned National Sports Federations. The requisite infrastructure, coaching facilities including foreign coaches, imported/sports equipment, sports scientific back-up and nutritious diet by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad are provided by Sports Authority of India.

Long Term Development Plan (LTDP) prepared by the concerned Federations are considered and finalised in a meeting held at the government level. Discipline-wise Monitoring Committees under the Chairmanship of Director General, SAI have been constituted. A National Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports oversees the preparation of the national teams and give policy guidelines where necessary.

Sports Authority of India is also implementing the following sports promotional schemes aimed at spotting and nurturing talented children for achieving excellence at the national/international level in the junior/sub-junior age groups:—

(i) National Sports Talent Contest,

(ii) Army Boys Sports Companies,

(iii) Special Area Games,

(iv) SAI Training Centres.

Apart from the above schemes, talented children in the senior age groups are provided coaching facilities with scientific back-up and nutritious diet under the Centre of Excellence Scheme of Sports Authority of India.

(c) and (d) A new scheme called the "Scheme for Assisting Promising Sports persons and Supporting Personnel" has been introduced wherein eminent sports persons can be given amounts upto 5 lakhs for equipment, training, engagement of coaches and scientific supports.